168. Disabilities of the Muslims of Travancore in securing proper representation in public service.

MR. N. M. OOMARKUTTI (*Nominated*) said that, although the cry for the entertainment of all communities in the public service was a long-standing one, some communities still suffered from a disability in this respect. The Muslim community was one such. To remove this disability, the member made the following suggestions:—

(1) Qualified Muslims should be appointed in all departments as far as possible on the basis of their numerical strength.

(2) Those who are newly appointed and who have already been appointed should be given preferential treatment in giving promotions, for a specified period.

(3) Muslims should be appointed in the lower and higher ranks of the Judicial Department.

(4) Qualified Muslims should be appointed in the Revenue, Excise, Registration and Education Departments.

(5) The acting hands in the Revenue and Registration Departments should be continued. without break.

(6) A Muslim should be appointed as Professor of Mahomedan Law in the Law College.

(7) The Recruitment Committee should be asked to begin its work early.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Oomarkutti, as I said just now, Muslims are being appointed in all departments except, of course, the Devaswom Department, and there is no rule or practice against their appointment. They have equal opportunities as members of other communities. The Recruitment Committee is going into the whole question, and a definite policy will be laid down as soon as that committee has reported on the matter of initial appointments.

169. Christians and public service.

MR. THOMAS THOMAS (*Pattanamtitta taluk*) said that everywhere the problem of recruitment to the public service was a vexed one. The system of education obtaining in the State produced men fit only for the public service and it was therefore no wonder that every educated man was a job-hunter. Most of the appointments in the Travancore service were held by caste Hindus who favoured only members of their own communities for further appointments, so that others found it difficult to enter Government service. The importance of every community depended on the number of officers in it. The Christians in Travancore constituted more than a third of her population. In point of education, wealth, tax payment, trade and industry they were second to none. So also in running educational institutions and doing philanthropic work they stood foremost. But in the public service they were poorly represented. They were not entertained in the Military

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Department and their entertainment in the Revenue Department was difficult. According to him, one from every 17 Brahmins and one from every 79 Nayars were Government servants, while among Christians there was only one Government servant for every 475 persons. The Revenue Department was the most important of all departments in the State for more reasons than one. Agriculture was the chief occupation of the people. The assignment of land, mutation of rights in respect of land, assessment of land, recovery of land tax, preparation of electoral rolls, grant of agricultural loans, recovery of loans and other items of work directly connected with land were attended to by the officers of the Land Revenue Department and the Christians were not entertained in such an important department for a long time. But as a result of repeated representations and constitutional agitations, the Revenue Department was thrown open to the Christians, Ezhavas and others similarly circumstanced. Although 12 years had elapsed since the Department was so thrown open there were no Christians either among Dewan Peishkars or Division Assistant and only three among the Tahsildars were Christians. In the lower ranks their number was very few. To remove this inequality a Christian should be selected as a Peishkar for one of the impending vacancies from among the Second or District Judges and six or seven Christians should be selected from the Secretariat or other offices for appointment as Tahsildars and two or three for being appointed as Division Assistants Forty per cent. of the appointments in the Department should be reserved for Christians and filled up either by promotion in the Department or by recruitment from outside.

Similarly, in the other departments also arrangements should be made for reserving 35 to 40 per cent. of the appointments to Christians.

In conclusion, the member said that in the Recruitment Committee, Christians, other than Roman Catholics, were not represented.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Thomas, the claims of the Christians will be duly considered.

170. Public service.

MR. N. GOPALA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha taluk, Group I*) said that the administration of every State always aimed at the welfare of the people. But the officers appointed to carry on the administration forgot this fundamental principle and were subject to bribery, external influence, and communal bias. Unnecessay appointments were created and undue salaries paid to the incumbents. An untainted public service was a desirable and necessary thing. The defects in the public service as a result of corruption on the part of the officers had been brought to the notice of the Government through the Assembly and the Council. But it was regrettable that the Government had not taken any steps to put down corruption after making the necessary enquiry. The Government could not deny the existence of corruption in the public service. On one

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